

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220279

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, US, NI

SUBJECT: OBASANJO VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 215858 (B) LAGOS 9994 (C) LAGOS 9384
(D) LAGOS 8644

1. THIS CABLE OUTLINES SCHEDULE WE PROPOSE FOR OBASANJO VISIT, REQUESTS NAMES OF NIGERIANS ACCOMPANYING OBASANJO, AND REQUESTS DETAILS REGARDING TRAVEL IN U.S. WE NEED ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AND NIGERIAN REACTION TO PROPOSED SCHEDULE SOONEST. SEPTTEL WILL OUTLINE CONTENT OF PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING MEMORANDUM AND ADDITIONAL POINTS SECRETARY MAY COVER.

2. SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 8 WHITE HOUSE MEETING ACCEPTED FOLLOWING INDICATIVE SCHEDULE FOR WASHINGTON PORTION OF VISIT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE NIGERIAN COMMENTS SOONEST.
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YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT FOLLOWING IS ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY, AT PRESENT, ALTHOUGH WE SHALL BEGIN TO FIRM UP THE SCHEDULE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

EVENING - OBASANJO AND PARTY ARRIVE ANDREWS AFB BY

NIGERIAN AIRCRAFT FROM NIGERIA

PRIVATE EVENING

OVERNIGHT BLAIR HOUSE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

WHITE HOUSE ARRIVAL CEREMONY WITH FULL HONORS

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AT WHITE HOUSE

LUNCHEON GIVEN BY SECRETARY AT STATE DEPARTMENT, FOLLOWED
BY A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY

MAYOR WASHINGTON PRESENTS KEY TO THE CITY

WHITE HOUSE DINNER (SEE PARA 2 BELOW)

OVERNIGHT BLAIR HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

PRESS CONFERENCE AT BLAIR HOUSE

SECOND MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AT THE
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WHITE HOUSE

LUNCHEON GIVEN BY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE AND/OR THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE AT THE US CAPITOL

VISIT TO FORT BELVOIR

MEETING WITH NIGERIAN COMMUNITY

RECEPTION OR DINNER GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR JOLAOSO
(SEE PARA 3 BELOW)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

DEPARTURE CEREMONY AT WASHINGTON MONUMENT GROUNDS

3. FYI NSC INFORMS US PRESIDENT PREFERS WORKING

STATE DINNERS TO CEREMONIAL STATE DINNERS. A WORKING
STATE DINNER IS LIMITED TO ROUGHLY 30-45 GUESTS OF THE
HIGHEST REPRESENTATION OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS (TWELVE FROM

NIGERIA) AND DOES NOT INCLUDE SPOUSES. THE DRESS IS BUSINESS SUIT OR EQUIVALENT. A CEREMONIAL STATE DINNER HAS ROUGHLY 100 GUESTS, WITH ALMOST NO OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION, AND CONCLUDES WITH ENTERTAINMENT. DRESS IS BLACK TIE. NYERERE HAD WORKING STATE DINNER FOLLOWED BY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION. END FYI. IF SUBJECT ARISES, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT YOU KNOW THE PRESIDENT STRONGLY PREFERS A WORKING STATE DINNER IN ORDER TO GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW THE VISITING HEAD OF STATE AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION. YOU SHOULD UNDERTAKE TO REPORT ANY PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS THE NIGERIANS MAY MAKE ON THIS POINT.

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4. IF OCCASION ARISES, YOU SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE NIGERIANS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER DOES NOT REPEAT NOT ACCEPT INVITATIONS TO ATTEND A RETURN DINNER OR RECEPTION. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE OR THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD USUALLY REPRESENT THE PRESIDENT AT A RETURN ENGAGEMENT.

5. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT AMBASSADORS YOUNG, MCHENRY AND EASUM, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AND CHARGE DISCUSSED POSSIBLE NYC ACTIVITIES WITH OBASANJO DURING LAGOS CONFERENCE. WE WOULD WELCOME NIGERIAN PROPOSALS ON THIS PART OF VISIT. WHEN WILL OBASANJO ADDRESS UNGA? WHEN WILL HE CALL ON WALDHEIM? WHEN WILL HE MEET WITH NIGERIAN COMMUNITY?

6. YOU MAY SAY THAT WE EXPECT OBASANJO WILL RECEIVE INVITATIONS FROM VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND CITIES. FOR INSTANCE, DEREK BOK, THE PRESIDENT OF HARVARD, HAS ALREADY WRITTEN TO THE SECRETARY CONCERNING HARVARD'S INTEREST IN RECEIVING OBASANJO. DOES HE INTEND OR WISH TO VISIT ANY POINTS OUTSIDE NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON?

7. MEMBERSHIP OF NIGERIAN PARTY: WE NEED SOONEST, BUT NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 16.

EMBASSY'S BEST ESTIMATE OF WHO WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE OFFICIAL PARTY FOR THE VISIT. THIS LIST IS NEEDED TO ALLOW US TO ASSEMBLE BIOGRAPHIES. WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT MAY BE AMENDED, BUT LIST OF MOST PROBABLE MEMBERS NEEDED NOW.

8. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, THE OFFICIAL PARTY IS LIMITED TO 12, INCLUDING THE VISITOR AND SPOUSE (IF ACCOMPANYING), THE AMBASSADOR AND SPOUSE IN WASHINGTON, AND ANY
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SPOUSES OF ACCOMPANYING OFFICIAL PARTY MEMBERS. OTHER PERSONS ACCOMPANYING ARE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE PARTY. USG BEARS ALL NORMAL LIVING EXPENSES OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY ONLY, DURING THE PERIOD OF THE VISTT (UP TO SIX DAYS) AND WILL FINANCE TRAVEL EXCEPT THAT BY NIGERIAN AIRCRAFT IN US. WHILE USG WILL ASSIST IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE PARTY, IT CAN ASSUME NO FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

9. TRAVEL: TRAVEL OF OFFICIAL PARTY WITHIN U.S. WOULD NORMALLY BE BY USG AIRCRAFT. OBASANJO WILL ARRIVE IN U.S. ON OCTOBER 10 AND PRESUMABLY DEPART OCTOBER 15 BY NIGERIAN AIRCRAFT. WILL THE AIRCRAFT REMAIN IN THE U.S. IN THE INTERIM? WILL HE TRAVEL FROM WASHINGTON TO NEW YORK IN THE AIRCRAFT, OR RELY ON US FOR TRANSPORTATION. IF HE PLANS TO TRAVEL BY U.S. AIRCRAFT, YOU SHOULD URGE FMG TO LIMIT FULL PARTY TO ABOUT 20 IN WHICH CASE THEY MAY ALL BE ACCOMMODATED ON THE AIRCRAFT. WE CANNOT MAKE ANY COMMITMENT IN THIS REGARD BUT IT IS A REAL POSSIBILITY. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD, OF COURSE, BE GREATLY SIMPLIFIED IF ALL MEMBERS OF THE PARTY WERE TO TRAVEL ON THE SAME PLANE.

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